

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06748 091419Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 DHA-05
ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/104 W

-----029889 091424Z /53

P R 091254Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8189
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6748

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IS, SF
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

1. SUMMARY: SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER FOELOF BOTHA PAID AN UNEXPECTED AND UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO ISRAEL SEPTEMBER 2 AND 3. IN MEETINGS WITH BEGIN AND DAYAN, HE EXPLAINED SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION AND DISCUSSED RHODESIA AND HEARD BEGIN EXPLAIN ISRAEL'S POLICY REGARDING LEBANON, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION OF OTHER MIDDLE EAST MATTERS, OR OF BILATERAL ISSUES. THE VISIT RECONFIRMS ISRAEL'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA, EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE THIRD WORLD. END SUMMARY

2. BOTHA'S VISIT WAS NOT ANNOUNCED BEFOREHAND AND BECAME PUBLICLY KNOWN ONLY AFTER HE HAD DEPARTED FROM ISRAEL FOR GENEVA, WHERE HE WAS TO MEET WITH IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE VISIT WITH FMA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ANUG AND SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY DCM VAN ZYL BUT HAVE FOUND THEM LESS THAN FORTH-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 06748 091419Z

COMING ON DETAILS OF THE VISIT.

3. ANUG, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS WITH BEGIN AND DAYAN, TOLD US THAT THE MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO BOTHA'S EXPLAINING SOUTH AFRICA'S CURRENT POLICIES AND POSITIONS AND HIS VIEWS ON RHODESIA. ON THE LATTER SUBJECT, ANUG SAID

THAT BOTHA HAD EXPRESSED TO THE ISRAELIS HIS SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT WHAT HE TERMED AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REVERSAL OF THE AMERICAN POSITION REGARDING THE FUTURE COMPOSITION OF RHODESIAN MILITARY FORCES. THE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS TAKEN UP BY BEGIN'S EXPLANATION OF ISRAELI POLICY REGARDING LEBANON; BEGIN REPEATED HIS INTENTION NOT TO ABANDON THE CHRISTIAN VILLAGERS IN SOUTH LEBANON. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF OTHER MIDDLE EAST ISSUES OF BILATERAL SUBJECTS AT THESE MEETINGS ACCORDING TO ANUG.

4. SOUTH AFRICAN DCM WAS TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT VISIT. HE ARRIVED ON POST IN MIDST OF BOTHA VISIT AND CLAIMED NEITHER TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED NOR TO HAVE HAD A BRIEFING FROM HIS AMBASSADOR. TO EXTENT HE WOULD SAY ANYTHING ABOUT VISIT HE PUT STRESS ON PROTOCOL NATURE OF BOTHA'S ACTIVITIES. SAID THAT BOTHA KNEW NO ONE IN NEW BEGIN GOVERNMENT WITH EXCEPTION OF DAYAN, WHOM HE HAD ONCE MET IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND FELT THE NEED TO EXPAND HIS PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH ISRAELI LEADERSHIP.

5. WE WILL KEEP DIGGING BUT WE DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THERE IS LESS TO VISIT THAN MEETS THE EYE.
LEWIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV06748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770327-0285
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770978/aaaacolk.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 85fd0d49-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1322370
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL
TAGS: OVIP, PDEV, IS, SF, (BOTH, MICHEL C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/85fd0d49-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009